

FRS NEWSLETTER

Volume 2- Issue # 21- March 1999

Dear FRS-Holland Friend!

In front of you the first 1999 "FRS Newsletter", edition 21. I'd like to apologize for the fact that in the previous edition the letter spacing. The intention was to include as much info as possible but that was at the expense of legibility. Some of our readers were criticising us for that and they were right! This time it must be to your liking. The following three 1999 editions will be published mid June, mid September and mid December. I am proud that a small publication like the FRS Newsletter still has some exclusive Caroline news included. We got that news just before going to the printery. Just in time... Have some fun!

FRS NEWSCORNER

FRS-Holland Activities

Since December we have been carrying out a few broadcasts. Luck was however not on our side! Following the test of a new tx Dec. 13th, the planned Dec. 20th X-Mas broadcast had to be cancelled because of technical problems with the tx. With the great help of some good friends, we managed to go on air a week later between 09.52-14.15 CET. Pxs were aired on 6240 kHz and although the signal was not as good as during the test on the 13th, we were quite satisfied. All the October birthday mail was read out during the programmes. FRSH also participated in the Michael Ravigneaux contest. During the period Dec. 18th 1998- Jan. 6th 1999 two 30 min. pxs were aired a number of times via the txs of the SWRS in Southern Europe. On Fri the 18th between 19.10-19.35 UTC FRS was received in Mansfield, Victoria, Australia. Frequency was 7590 kHz USB. The New Year started with a 3¼ hour broadcast on 6240 Sun Jan. 24th. Signal-quality on the continent was good, we were surprised that reception in the UK was rather disappointing. Although we strive for a good signal in all of Central and Western Europe, in all fairness I have to admit that the response from listeners in Great Britain is very disappointing nowadays and that relieves the situation. February 21st a 4+ hour broadcast should be aired but due to illness the transmission was cancelled. A new date was chosen: March 7th. Following tx modifications, all worked very well until the tx was finally tested in the late afternoon of Sat March 6th.... Once again technical difficulties which could not be solved in time implying that the FRS pxs had to be cancelled for the second time. And that's not all... Sat March 13th the tx was repaired, was taken back to the location and was tested. At first all seemed working very well, power was 130W and modulation was fine. But: after some 20 minutes the signal dropped from 130W to approx. 10W, the PA valve was red-hot. As the main engineer was not at the location and not able to repair the rig before or on Sunday, it was for the third time that the FRSH broadcast was cancelled. I guess that's the first time in almost 19 years FRS history something like this happened! It's nobody's fault, people worked very hard and spent most of their Saturday to fix the job but in one way or another we were very unfortunate. With a little luck (...) FRSH is on the air Sunday March 21st, one month after the proposed date!! Pxs are starting at 09.52 CET including FRS Magazine, Off Beat (60 min.- extra long) with Mark Jones, two 30 min. FRS Goes DX sections (SW in part 1, general news in part 2) and Joop ter Zee's Short SW Parade. If not on the 21st, it will aired on the 28th. During this final year of the millennium this Newsletter will be published mid June, mid September and mid December.

FRS-Holland Future Activities

If circumstances allow, FRS-Holland will be carrying out a few trms in the upcoming months. We are intending to carry out a 41 mb test which will be announced on 48 metres so that listeners are aware of us being on 41. Possible frequencies are 7340, 7360, 7425 and 7490. If you are on the internet, we will warn you ahead. If not, scan the 48 mb for FRS activities in May or June. Possible frequencies are 6200, 6207, 6210 or 6240.

New Jingles

A few weeks ago we received an MD full of brandnew liners. In the mean time Joop ter Zee mixed some of them. The complete package is not yet ready but our millennium set is! Some of the results are to be heard in Peter Verbruggen's FRS Magazine on Sun March 21st/28th. He's the only one recording his shows after Febr. 21st while the other shows were already recorded before the 21st! Great news for jingle collectors: some of the new stuff can be downloaded in the MPEG3 format via our website. For those we can't, don't be disappointed, we will produce a FRS jingle CD later this year. The complete new package will be introduced during our 3rd Sun broadcast in April or May.

Important

Due to circumstances the <peter.verbruggen@tip.nl> e-mail address will be soon changed. Those of you who's e-mail addresses are stored in our addressbook will be automatically informed. The new e-mail will also be announced in upcoming broadcasts and in the June edition of this Newsletter. Remember you can contact us via <frsh@iname.com>. Website: <http://listen.to/frsh>.

THE SW FREE RADIO SCENE

In this "first" edition we cover the news from the period mid December 1998- mid March 1999. It seems already ages ago: the X-Mas Holiday Season 1998. During this period conditions over were fairly good in contrast with for instance 1996 when propagation was appalling. Some statistics: Sun Dec. 20th saw almost a total of 50 different stations on the SW free radio bands, this number includes some 10 stations which were relayed via the SWRS in Southern Europe. As the SWRS is an unofficial operation, it's logical we have included them. X-Mas Eve we counted some 17 stations on 76, 51 & 48 metres. And then came X-Mas Day: no less than 55 stations (!!) on 76, 51, 48, 41 & 25 metres. Boxing Day produced more or less the same number. No doubt it may be concluded that these numbers are absolute records in the history of SW free radio. Sun Dec. 27th completed three days in a row of SW free radio DX-ing with almost 50 stations on air. New Year's Eve the number dropped to approx. 12 stations, in the past there have never been a great number of stations on air on the last day of the year. It seems most station OPs have other business to do! Fri January 1st, New Year's Day 25 stations were heard and that was 50% of what was on air X-Mas Day. Last but not least we make mention of the first 1999 Sunday when just over 30 stations were radioating the spirit of free radio and qso's over Europe. Figures are interesting but not sanctifying, most important is that both station OPs and listeners have enjoyed this massive radio-activity. It would go too far to mention all stations which have been on air during those two week, what we do is try to summarize the most remarkable facts and loggings:

RADIO BLUE STAR was heard on 6910 during various occasions over the X-Mas Season. This freq is giving excellent results both on short and long distances. On 76 metres 3908 was often used. During both X-Mas days it was mentioned that pxs were also receivable via the Internet. The e-mail add is <bluestar@limit.nl>. Add is Box 1104 in 8001 BC Zwolle.

RADIO BRIGITTE tested on 6907 Sun January 3rd. X-Mas day saw the station on 6478 and 6540 kHz. Add is Box 10 in 7594 ZG Ruurlo.

CITY FM (1) from Germany not to be confused with another German station calling itself Radio City is using the Yterby address. Early 1998 both stations used the Wuppertal address and confusion was the logical result. For that reason City FM moved to Sweden. By the way: Radio City was heard on 7355U & 7468U Sun January 3rd. We have no idea how signal-quality was.

German **CRAZY WAVE RADIO** was active via own equipment on 76 & 48 metres. Numerous freqs were used over the X-Mas Holiday Season. In addition the station's pxs were aired throughm the SWRS facilities. E-mail is <crazywave@usa.net>. Together with Radio Benelux CWR is now using a new add which is Box 5, 8100 AA Raalte. BNL was heard during numerous occasions on 7480 with good results.

DAYTONA RADIO was heard on 6965 Sun Dec. 26th. Add: see Radio Blue Star.

New Year's Eve **RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND & the VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS** were heard for the 10th time with their traditional joint broadcast and this time no less than 800W of power were radiated to all corners of Europe. To avoid QRM and interference, the broadcast took place within the 41 mb on 7480 kHz. Signal and modulation quality was excellent. The broadcast started already at 07.15 UTC and lasted almost 9 hours. Add is Box 663, 7900 AR Hoogeveen. For more details about the two stations and a nice photo of the tx go to <www.listen.to/eastcoastholland>.

The Dutch **FARMERS** were heard Dec. 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th and 31st. Part of the pxs were also relayed to call on FM. E-mail: <http://flv.to/farmers> Snailmail: Box 108 in 7200 AC Dalfsen.

RADIO FREE LONDON was heard Dec. 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th, 29th, 31st and Jan. 1st, 2nd and 3rd on 5805. Throughout the week 3920 kHz was also providing a 2 hour loop of RFL pxs. Every days fresh pxs were put on the air lasting 24 hours. The station's signals varied between fair and good. In the greater London area 819 kHz in the medium wave was also on. E-mail: <rflsw@usa.net>.

FREESTYLE RADIO celebrated its 2nd anniversary on the 20th of December with a broadcast on 6237. The station is using the Yterby address (10).

Dec. 25th Scandinavian **RADIO FUSION** was heard on 6200 with a 60 minute broadcast. Signal-quality was fair to good in Western Europe. Address is Box 4580 in 20320 Malmö in Sweden.

One of the rare catches was a Dutch station named **LASERNET**. Dec. 25th the station was picked up on 6261 putting out X-Mas music taken from US Satellite radio stations. Add is Box 40185 in 6504 AD Nijmegen. E-mail: <laser-net@usa.net>.

X-Mas Day **RADIO MI AMIGO** from the Netherlands was heard on 6235 & 5815 kHz putting out a varied selection of offshore extracts and music. Both freqs were not running simultaneously although carrying the same output. Address is Box 2188, 3000 CD Rotterdam being the same address a former Dutch SW broadcaster once used. Signals by the way were rather weak although the OPs claimed to have been using an ex-army tx, the BC610 producing a maximum unmodulated carrier wave of no less than 500W....

German **RADIO NORDSEE** (10) was active on 48 metres 6245 two days in a row. Dec. 25th & 26th saw live-pxs which were aired between 10.00-18.00 CET. Both days the station produced both excellent signals and programmes. And if that was not enough, New Year's Eve Nordsee was all day on 6245, during most (all?) of the broadcast 3935 was running in parallel.

RADIO OZONE & **BBMS** have been testing on a number of out-of-band freqs. Dec. 27th saw BBMS on 7525 kHz with German deejay Bobby Sparks. Sat Jan. 15th a test to the USA was conducted on 6880 23.30-01.30 UTC and



on the 16th on 5770 07.30-08.30 UTC. Address: see January-March report!

RADIO PLASMA is a new German station making its debut Sun Dec. 20th via the BNL tx tuned to 7480 kHz on 41 metres. Signal-quality was fine. Address is (1).

SANTA CLAUS OVERDRIVE is one of the few typical X-Mas Season station popping up each year, the station was putting out X-Mas comedy on 6255 X-Mas Day. Boxing Day 6240 was used.

Remember Scottish **RADIO STELLA** from years gone by? The OP Jock Wilson visited WMR's Jack Russell and a live broadcast was aired on 3944 in the night of Sat Jan. 2nd to Sun Jan. 3rd. Jan. 9th saw Jock Wilson once again on air via WMR, this time on 7446 kHz. It looks like he has acquired a taste for broadcasting on SW. E-mail WMR is <wmr@usa.net>.

SUPERCLAN RADIO returned on SW following a long absence and was heard with a true alternative programming on 6240 X-Mas Day. As the modulation wasn't loud enough, the station suffered from Nordsee interference although both stations were separated 5 kHz. Boxing Day part of the pxs were repeated, once again on 6240. Response on the pxs was rather low! Add is Box 343 in 6900 AH Zevenaar.

USA RECEPTION: Several Euro-pirates have been received in the USA in December: the "lucky ones" are Blue Star, the SWRS, Farmers from Holland, Radio AL Int., RFL and Spaceman Radio.

RADIO ZODIAC (1) from the UK was heard on 6190 Dec. 20th. A good signal was noted in the UK. Rumours are circulating that Zodiac will cease broadcasting on SW.

- 1 = P.O.Box 220342 / D-42373 WUPPERTAL / Germany
- 2 = 14 Stone Row/ COLERAINE/ Co. Londonderry/ BT52 1EP/ Northern Ireland
- 4 = P.O.Box 130/ 92504 RUEIL Cedex/ France
- 5 = 12 Dorman Rd/ PRESTON/ Lancs PR2 6AS/ England
- 7 = P.O.Box 386/ 5900 AJ VENLO/ th Netherlands
- 8 = Box 293/ Merlin/ Ontario N0P 1W0/ Canada
- 10 = SRS/ Östra Porten 29/ 442 54 YTTERBY/ Sweden

RADIO AL INTERNATIONAL can be heard with almost weekly Sun morning trms around 6270 and sometimes switching to 6207 kHz. Sat & Sun Jan. 23rd/24th the station was noted with strong signals on 6270. Sat Febr. 14th at 08.00 UTC 6290 was in use and later that morning the station was back on 6270. In the mean time a new modulator is in operation. Problems with that same modulator forced Radio AL Int. to leave the airwaves on Sun Febr. 21st. After fixing the job, Radio AL Int. returned on 6207 'cause 6270 was occupied. For photos, information and links surf to the station's website: <www.listen.to/alinternational>. Email: <alinternational@freemail.nl>. Address is shared with Bandonica, VOTN & RECH: POBox 663, 7900 AR Hoogeveen in the Netherlands.

RADIO BANDONICA has followed the example of fellow broadcasters Radio AL Int., RECH and VOTN and has now opened up its very own homepage: <www.listen.to/bandonica>. Sat Jan. 23rd & Sun Febr. 14th Bandonica was heard on 6275 with strong signals. Add: see Radio AL Int.

BBMS was heard via the Ozone tx on 5770 kHz on Sunday January 17th 1999. Febr. 15th saw the station on 5782 and 6191. Add: see Ozone Radio.

RADIO BELCANTO is a new Dutch station which was heard on 6262 on Sun March 7th. The address is: P.O.Box 21, NL-7010 AA Gaanderen.

Dutch **RADIO BLACK POWER** was heard on 4240 at 10.40 UTC on Sun Febr. 21st. A strong signal was noted. Interesting to know is 4240 is within the 70 mb, a fre range not yet used by any European pirates.

RADIO BLUE STAR is nowadays one of Holland's most active and loudest stations on the SW free radio bands. Jan. 17th saw Blue Star on 6190. January 31st 11400 was in use. Jan. 24th Blue Star tested with no less than 800W using a quad type of antenna. Future trms could see a power exceeding 1 kW!! Address & Email: see X-Mas section.

RADIO BORDERHUNTER was heard on 7480 Sun Jan. 31st. Signal-strength was good. Last year the station operated under the name Gunsmoke but since January the original name is back in use. Sun Febr. 28th saw Borderhunter testing on 7490, modulation was not 100%. March 14th 7365 was used but also during this broadcast the mod left much to be desired. The station's address seems to have changed into P.O.Box 44, B-2387 Baarle-Hertog, Belgium. We are not sure whether (5) remains open.

RADIO BORN FREE was heard testing on 6275 in the late afternoon of Sat Febr. 27th. Signal was rather poor. The following day a much better signal was heard on the same frequency.

RADIO BRIGITTE was heard on 6477 Sun Jan. 24th. Jan. 31st 6908 was in use and Febr. 7th 6906. Sun March 14th Brigitte was noted on 6307, 6550 & 6907! Add: see X-Mas section.

RADIO COMMUNICATION (1) was heard testing its (new?) tx on 6240U and 6282 Sat Febr. 27th. One day later the station was noted on 6269.

Instead of analogue digital news from **RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND**. The website has been updated recently. Just see for yourself: <www.listen.to/eastcoastholland>. A more easy-to-use Email address is now valid: <eastcoastholland@hotmail.com>. Sat Jan. 23rd saw RECH on 6270 with a fine signal and Sat Febr. 20th 6290 was briefly used. A VFO-controlled 100W tx is being used. Add: see Radio AL Int.

EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO was heard during a number of occasions in

the past few weeks. Sun Jan. 31st the station tested on 6210 kHz making preparations for Febr. 14th when a 3 hour broadcast was aired on 6200. Apart from the EMR Int. Service, a very interesting Radio Jackie Story was aired. This is the type of programming making it really worth while to listen to SW free radio! Just for your info: Radio Jackie used to be a very famous London medium wave pirate broadcasting between March 1969 and Febr. 1985. March 1999 will see the 30th anniversary of Jackie and EMRs Barry Stephens is producing a 16 part Radio Jackie documentary. Part 1 was aired Sun December 13th when EMR was on 6210 and Febr. 14th saw a repeat. Part 2 will be included in the upcoming EMR broadcast late March, that will be the 22nd or 29th. Each part will cover one year of Radio Jackie's life featuring studio but also rare off air recordings and giving valuable background info. If you are interested in getting info about the London landbased pirate scene in the late 60's, 70s and early 80s, then visit <http://193.63.162.100/gh/eire>. Absolutely interesting! Back to the 14th of February: according to reliable sources the EMR signal in the UK was seriously jammed by another station. On the continent EMRs output was not badly affected justifying the conclusion the jamming station came from British soil.... As a result it was decided to repeat the complete programming on Sun Febr. 21st except the Radio Jackie Story. This time EMR had more luck. No sign of any interference and on top of that conditions were better than the week before. Signal-strength was absolutely excellent, modulation could have been a bit stronger. In the mean time a new set of jingles have been completed to be introduced during the upcoming broadcast in March. February 7th saw EMR testing on 7517 & 7450 in the 41 MB. More 41 mb tests at an irregular basis will be taking place in the near future. Sun March 7th EMR was heard testing on 6185 kHz. Looking back to December 1998: E.M.R. was fairly successful with its Dec. 13th broadcast on 6200. Add is POBox 2727, 6049 ZG Herten.

RADIO FLUX seems to have settled down on 6300, at least for the time being. The station was heard various times on that freq with good results. February 7th Flux was not heard on 6300 but instead on 6950AM putting out Dutch music. Reason: an overcrowded 48 mb. Signal-quality was fair. In the mean time a new address is in use: P.O.Box 33, 4158 ZG Deil. Email: <flux@hetnet.nl>.

RADIO FREE LONDON was heard on 5805 with fair signal-strength Sun Jan. 24th. Eversince the station hasn't been noted on their fixed 5805 frequency. Usually the station broadcasts on every 1st & 3rd Sun of the month. Address is 101B Kings Cross Rd, London WC1X 9LP in the UK. Latest news: Sunday March 14th RFL was heard with fair/ good signal-strength on 5805! Activities on 5805 will continue, as from Eastern onwards a new 350 Watt tx will become operational. Future plans include the use of new freq ranges. We are curious....

FRESH AIR RADIO was heard on 6290 kHz Jan. 31st via the facilities of Radio Orion. As far as we know the station is connected to Radio Orion relaying Fresh Air also on New Year's Day. Add is P.O.Box 53, Bilstone, Wolverhampton WVY14 6YS.

A new Dutch station was heard on Sunday January 31st: **RADIO GALAXY**. For almost two hours a musical show was aired on 6256 and signal-strength was satisfactory. As the station didn't use a limiter-compressor, the mod seemed to be a bit on the low side. The station is not operated by Superclan's Herbie the Fish but there is some sort of connection. A 50W transmitter is in use, the address is POBox 343, 6900 AH Zevenaar, the Netherlands. The aerial is being prepared for transmitting within 76, 48 & 41 metres. Future plans are unknown for the time being. We'll keep you informed if there are any developments.

INTERNET: if you want to hear pirates and other stations via web shortwave radio, then visit <www.javaradio.com/>. The famous Wuppertal one is now also on the Internet with a new website: <home.wtal.de/kwfw/dropbox>.

Jan. 22nd, 23rd and 24th saw another massive on air attack of **LEVEL 48** (1). Activities started Fri evening on 76 metres 3905 with broadcasts from CWR, BNL, Spaceman and Torenvalk. On Saturday during daytime 6245 was being used by Laguna Speedwing, Rising Star, Torenvalk, CWR & Benelux. In the evening hours 3905 was again occupied by a few stations. Sunday Jan. 24th all trms took place on 6260 kHz. The fact that each day all broadcasts were carried out on the same frequency certainly is a plus! During the Sun morning a fake station calling itself **Level 24** was active on 6220. Obviously this was not the friendly kind of spoof station, the attitude was rather hostile airing loud and clear its opinion. It seems the Level 48 crew know the identity of Level 24 people. Some 50 letters were received for the January marathon. Sat March 13th & Sun March 14th Level was heard on 6253 and 3910 resp. Power was approx. 120W.

RADIO LITTLE STAR seems to be a new German station making its debut on 6210 Jan. 24th. A week later 6240 was in use with a fair signal. Add is via Free Radio Info: POBox, 520112, D-44207 Dortmund in Germany. By the way: all stations connected to FR Info in Dortmund can now be reached by E-mail via the FRI Email address <friduisburg@t-online.de>.

RADIO MARABU continues with a true alternative music format mostly to be heard on 6210 kHz. Sun Febr. 14th and Sat Febr. 20th Marabu was active on 6210, this time luckily without any interference. In January Marabu's 6210 signal was almost completely nulled out by a station (?) which obviously did not check 6210 before coming on air. Address is POBox 1166, D-49187 Belm in Germany. Email: <radiomarabu@t-online.de>. Some latest news: Marabu is planning to celebrate 15 years of alternative pxs. The 24 hour relay together with Radio Titanic Int. was postponed by a week because the tapes didn't arrive in time at the location. When you read this, these pxs will possibly have been aired!

A new station on Shortwave is testing on 11390 kHz Sundays only 0700-1015 UTC, called **RADIO MARCONI**, playing old records of Radio Marconi International. The owner is located in South Italy. According to the OP, the tx



output is approx. 100 W. At present there's no address. Sun Febr. 28th Marconi was noted on 11390 kHz with a fair signal in Western Europe. Email: <mrsw@hotmail.com>. Address: C/o Via Umbria 1, IT-74100 Taranto (Ta) Sat March 6th at approx. 11.20 UTC a fake **RADIO NETHERLANDS WORLD SERVICE** was logged on 6290. Non-stop Beatles records and announcements in Dutch and English were made. At least some people thought this was indeed RNW!! Not to wonder...the announcements were sounding professional fooling some listeners. As far as we may conclude the Farmers recorded part of that fake broadcast and rebroadcasted it on the 14th on 6284 kHz. That resulted in people sending in letters to RNW's headquarters in Hilversum... Media Network reported that pirates were responsible for this practical joke and that any reports could not be confirmed! For genuine reports write to: RNW is POBox 222, 1200 JG in Hilversum, the Netherlands.

OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL can still be found on top of the 49 mb but from time to time the station slightly alters frequency. The station used to be on 6199 in November/ December 1998 and since January Ozone moved downwards to 6196 and even 6190. The reason for doing so could be avoiding Dutch powerhouses frequently using 6200. Sun Jan. 31st Ozone carried out an antenna test on 6195. That same day a test took place on 7450 in the 41 mb. Result was a poor/fair signal on the continent. Due to problems with the modulation, Ozone was forced to leave the airwaves. Another interesting test was conducted on Sun Febr. 14th when 4790 within the 62 mb was being used after 21.00 UTC testing propagation characteristics on this relatively low frequency. The test was repeated on the 21st and the 28th in the early evening hours. Reports for future tests on 41 metres and other bands are highly appreciated and can be sent to: 55D Chester Road, London N 19-5DF England.

Sun January 31st UK-based **RADIO PANDORA** (10) tested on 7340 and 7495. 7340 is in the middle of the 41 mb but during most of the Sun morning this freq is free to use without any co-channel interference from legal powerhouses. It's amazing that apart from Pandora (and EMR) up till now not one single station has tried out this part of the 41 mb!! Results of the tests were not sensational, at least not on the continent, on both freqs fair signals were received. In the UK 7340 was received loud & clear. Sun Febr. 21st saw Pandora on 5773 with only 10W of power and one week later 7399 was tried out. The latter channel was also used Sun March 14th.

Q103 was heard with nice results on Sun Jan. 17th. Freq was 6969U. **STATION SIERRA SIERRA** (10) tested on 3905 kHz Sat Jan. 30th. Don't confuse this one with English Subterranean Sounds! Sierra Sierra announced an Email add: <ss@aol.com>.

SWRS reports that they have built a new vertical omnidirectional aerial working within the approx. range of 5700-7700 kHz. This new aerial is being tested only with a low powered transmitter of around 50 W USB. The station is eagerly awaiting any reports via Email via <swrs@usa.net>.

RADIO SPACEMAN from the Netherlands can be regularly heard with mostly brief trms on Sun morning, using various freqs. Sun Jan. 17th Spaceman was active on 6245 and 6260. Sun Febr. 21st Spaceman was on 6284 and during a brief period Spaceman and the Farmers were causing mutual interference. Spaceman was certainly not wiped out by the Farmers clearly indicating the use of a high-powered tx!!

Swedish **SRS-NEWS** hopes to celebrate it's 5th anniversary with a special 30-min. px being radiated sometime in May. In these 5 years SRS has developed into a major and reliable SW free radio newsservice.

STAR CLUB RADIO's Roy Clark was fined 3000 DM in court on Tuesday March 2nd. Another fine and magistrate costs make a total of no less than something between 6000 and 7000 DM. Good luck Roy!!

Following a break **STARSHINE RADIO** (1) returned on SW on 6240 & 6250 Sun Febr. 28th. A 30 min. live-show and an old tape were aired.

German **RADIO Dr. TIM** (1) was heard on 6225 and 6260 kHz Sun Febr. 7th. Both signals were fair although mod on 6225 sounded a bit lowish. A week later 6237 and 6242 were in use.

Dutch **RADIO TORENVALK** has been very active in the New Year. Torenvalk was observed on Sun Jan. 31st on 6269, Sun Febr. 7th 6270 and 6300, Sun Febr. 14th 6299 and Sun Febr. 21st 6240 & 6270. Sun Febr. 7th a PLL controlled rig was tested but that caused an annoying humming on the carrier. As a result Torenvalk is now back with X-tal controlled equipment on 6299. Generally speaking the station puts out an excellent signal, the same applies for the modulation. It's worth while obtaining a quality comic QSL-card from Torenvalk (#3 is available now), drop OP Hans a line at P.O. Box 94, 7038 ZH Zeddam, The Netherlands.

RADIO TOTO has no connections whatsoever with the famous American popband Toto but simply is the new name for Radio New World Int., the joint venture of Radio Torenvalk and Radio Tonair broadcasting in February on 48 and 31 metres 9241 kHz.

TRANSATLANTIC RADIO provided a fair signal on 5795 Sun Jan. 17th. Sun Febr. 14th at 18.30 UTC a test on 3894 was carried out. Result was a fair to good signal. Add is POBox 4427 in 3006 AK Rotterdam. Website: <home.wxs.nl/~trans>. Email: <trans@wxs.nl>.

UNION RADIO seems to have settled down in the lower part of the 48 mb, the station now often uses 6210. That was the case on Sun Jan. 17th, 31st and Febr. 7th & 21st when the usual strong and well-modulated signals were noted. The station's output consists of a mix of Int. and Dutch language popmusic. Sporadically Union Radio can be heard on 3.9 MHz. Sun Jan. 24th for instance 3919 was in use. The show on the 7th February lasted almost 7 hours till 16.30 UTC!! Add is POBox 669 in 7900 AM Hooogeveen.

VOGELFREIES RADIO - UPDATE 98 is now available. This 12 page magazine is all about Germany's shortwave pirate radio scene. Including a review of 1998 activities as well as features on Radio Amazonia, Flamingo and E.T. Radio 94.8 from Berlin. Plus a story on the Duisburg free radio getto-

ther. In the German language only. For a copy send 1 IRC, DM 2.20 in German stamps or 1 US dollar to Bjoern Quaack, P.O.Box 103113, 44031 Dortmund, Germany. Remark: the 1995-1997 Updates aren't obtainable anymore. "Vogelfreies Radio", the book, is available for only DM 15.00

VOTN/ RECH carried out a joint early morning North America test on Sun Jan. 31st. Saturday evening Jan. 30th the big tx was briefly switched on making sure all worked properly. The test was conducted on 6912 and the result was 1 letter from the other side of the pond. And that proves that high power is no guarantee for a high number of letters, there are more factors influencing the overall result. Sat Febr. 27th VOTN was heard with 100W using a Rohde & Schwarz SK010 transmitter. Add: see Radio AL Int. Latest news: on Sun March 21st a joint 41 mb broadcast took place in the morning hours. Power: approx. 800W!!

RADIO WAVES INT. (4) remains active on 11401 from time to time. Sun Jan. 24th the station was heard on 26 metres.

Scottish **WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO** continues with regular 7446 kHz broadcasts. WMR puts out a format of rock music and fact is that the output power is not the 300W which were used a few years ago. Signal-strength on the continent is mostly fair. Email: <wmr@usa.net>.

RADIO WEST was heard via Ozone Radio Sat Jan. 9th/ Sun Jan. 10th 08.00 UTC 6196 and 5790 15.30 UTC. Address is Box 16, 7700 Mouscron in Belgium.

News from Belgian **X-TREME RADIO**: the station intended to test a new 35W rig at the end of 1998 but as far as we know nothing was heard on 6400, the freq which the station was willing to occupy.. There is a new/updated webpage at: <wowsites.com/xtremerradio/>. New Email address: <xtre@softhome.net>. New tests from Belgian soil will soon take place, the first one is scheduled for March. The previous test was unexpectedly interrupted because of unwanted police activity. The station crew suspects somebody to have been calling the police after seeing the X-Treme crew installing the antenna. Hopefully the station is more successful now!

If you are interested in the latest **RADIO 510 INT.** programme schedule, then take a look at: <www.nexus.org/NEXUS-IBA/Schedules/sat.htm>. Info seems to be very accurate!

YTTERBY-ADDRESS (10): two stations have joined the other Ytterby users, namely Radio Mirage and RTN.

SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE

Radio Caroline

For Radio Caroline the sudden closure was very sad simply because the station was quickly building up a large audience of enthusiastic listeners in Great Britain but also on the continent of Europe. Since October 1998, Caroline was to be heard with a weekly Sunday programming between 11.00-19.00 CET. Presenters like Nigel Harris, Johnny Lewis, David Foster and Steve Conway made listening to the station very enjoyable. During the shows that Sunday it was frequently mentioned that Caroline would be soon looking for alternatives on satellite. In the mean time Peter Moore has formed a rescue team consisting of the aforementioned presenting team and Andrew Austin who's specialized in selling commercial airtime. He's looking for new sponsors. That was the situation early January. And then came the good news mid February ... **A news-flash was received with the following content:**

Caroline broadcasts will commence on the Astra 1C satellite from 9.00 UTC on Saturday 20th February. The station will carry out live tests until 11.00am when programmes will start, hosted by Nigel Harris who started his radio career with Caroline in the mid seventies. During the day other Caroline regulars Johnny Lewis, Steve Conway, Dave Foster, Mark Stafford and others will be heard. Programmes on the first day will terminate at 21.00 UTC but will recommence at 09.00 on Sunday for another twelve hour spell. This will be the pattern for future weekends although it is hoped that transmission times will be increased later into 1999. Caroline is brokering spare air time to other interested parties. The American religious agency Pan American Broadcasting who placed blocks of programmes with the station in the eighties have again become involved and the profit derived from managing their broadcasts will be ploughed back into purchasing extra hours for music programming. The stations last experiment with satellite radio ended on Jan 3rd 1999 when European Klassik Rock from whom Caroline was renting air time suddenly closed down. E.K.R. was one of many satellite stations to launch this decade only to get into terminal financial difficulties. However, Peter Moore boss of Caroline made the following press statement about the new venture: "We have no illusions. Many others have tried and failed to sustain a satellite service. The difference here is that we have the charismatic Caroline name and the fund of goodwill that this creates. Our station has a thirty five year history of surviving when others cannot and we have been trained by long experience to carry out all our activities in a cost effective way. We are not carrying huge overheads or expecting massive returns at this stage. Proceeding with caution we have booked and pre paid for only the air time that we can afford, but we are adequately supported by advertisers and donations from Caroline enthusiasts and indeed their payments have funded this whole project without having to seek any outside finance. Therefore we are confident and do not foresee any insurmountable future problems". Caroline will be on the Astra 1c satellite. Channel 35 corresponding with 10.994 GHz using the audio subcarriers 7.38 & 7.56 MHz. In future weeks it is expected that the station will also be relayed on various terrestrial frequencies around Europe. Potential advertisers or new supporters are invited to contact us by Email or at the station office at 426 Archway Road, Highgate, N64JH, England."

In time Caroline hopes to buy all the transponders time and a 24 hour per day Radio Caroline service will resume. Terrestrial transmitters are expected to



begin relaying programs soon. One example is a Berlin station relaying Caroline's output on FM. Other satellite transponders around the world may well be adopted as the project continues. Programmes originate from the Maistone EKR studio where Caroline equipment has been installed. At present time the Ross Revenge is committed to shows and festivals. It may give a tug of nostalgia... but 'The Old Lady' is not dead yet! It will perhaps not please some Caroline supporters that the station is moving to satellite for distribution. However in the 90's approaching the magic year 2000, this is the right logical, if not sentimental, step. Radio Caroline: < www.radiocaroline.co.uk >. By the way: Radio Caroline received numerous telephone calls proving the station's current output is highly appreciated by listeners all over Europe!

Latest News

Music programmed/ New Jingles

At this moment one of the Caroline jocks is in charge of music programming. In fact he's the very first person to ever totally program the music on the station. In the past there have been music clocks and boxes of Current songs to play from but of course there never was a sophisticated programming package. A MiniDisc library is being built and the responsible person is around 60% there at present. People behind the station want to bring Caroline into the '90s by tightening up the format. Most of the previous RSLs had been a mess as far as music went. So, almost every song on the weekends is programmed now. There is a bit of freedom of course and presenters can play around with a couple of songs an hour and also play requests. Listeners may also have noticed the new jingle mixes and promos. These are the work of Mark Stafford. Caroline has over 50 new jingles and promos.

Future Plans

In contrast with previous astellite radio adventures, the Caroline future looks promising. Listener's response is very good, every week new advertisers show interest and Caroline has confirmed that they will be going past the original three month period. All kind of plans are developed to secure the future of the station on satellite.

Exclusive News

FRS Newsletter proudly presents a couple of bits of exclusive news for you. Firstly, at Easter Caroline will be running from Good Friday right through to Easter Monday so they can do the Top 500. Secondly, Johnnie Walker will be doing something for the station in a few weeks time. But not at Easter. Caroline will be extending to 10pm any week now!!

The latest schedule is :

Saturday: 9-12 Nigel Harris, 12-2 Johnny Lewis, 2-5 David Foster, 5-7 Guest Spot, 7-9 Steve Conway.
Sunday: 9-12 Johnny Lewis, 12-2 Steve Conway, 2-4 Nigel Harris, 4-6 David Foster, 6-9 Mark Stafford

As a surprise the news reached us (via TTS-Mediapro's Tom Collins) that former Laser 558 deejay Carlie Wolf, also known as The Sea Wolf, returns to his nautical roots with a special broadcast on Radio Caroline. Wolf will shake-up the airwaves and may put a satellite or two out of alignment when he does a special show on Radio Caroline on Saturday, March 27th from 5 PM to 7PM (UK time). TTS-Mediapro asked 'The Sea Wolf, Himself' what was in prospect for the evening: "Don't ask me what I have planned -- it will be just like the old days on Laser. I never knew how things would start, worse than that, I never knew how a show or link would end. Let's just say the music will be cookin' and we'll have a lot of fun." When asked about any link-ups with Chipping Sodbury Sound, Charlie replied, "Well I know the place a lot better now after working for GWR-FM in Bristol, so I guess the spirit of THE MOD-SOD SOUND will live on!" Replying to the question "How do you feel about broadcasting on the world's most famous radio station Radio Caroline?" Charlie answers:

" Well, it won't be a first, we used to visit the Ross Revenge on occasions and I do remember doing a link or two; however this will be my first full show on Caroline. I only hope I can live up to the reputations of people like my old mate, Johnny Walker [then maybe I can fill in for him on Radio Two] not too mention the likes of The Admiral Robbie Dale and the rest of the crews from the '70s and '80s. I believe my old friend, Johnny Lewis will keep my on an even keel. I may let him join in on a Fever Pitch or two."

Q: You know have a green card to work in this country, what is your perception of British Radio today?

A: It has come a long way, a lot of what we did on Laser --and later on ATLANTIC 252 has found its way on to the airwaves, but radio is very cyclic and at times I think we are back in 1984 [when Wolf first joined Laser] and the industry needs to return somewhat to its roots. We need to care more about our listeners and never forget that radio is there to entertain and touch people's lives. I am now a UK resident, and I hope you haven't heard the last of me. I think it is time to shake things up a little and I'm just the man to do it. I still have a great belief in British radio and that's what keeps me here.

Q: A lot of Americans became famous on Laser 558, are you still in touch with the old crew?

A: There were others besides me?!..... [laughs]. I do talk to Tommy 'What a guy' Rivers about every other month and the same with Laser manager, JOHN CATLETT. They are both still in England. I actually spoke to Liz West for the first time in years and we now communicate by e-mail. I did keep in touch with David Lee Stone before his tragic death. The rest, have been out of touch, but if they see this, they now know where to find me [charlie@mediapro.co.uk] or visit the TTS-Mediapro web site [www.mediapro.co.uk] and click on my name on the index.

Q: Charlie, will we hear the Laserettes again?

A: Don't know... I think they are probably all more interested in changing nappies or something these days and trying to forget.

World's last offshore pirate legalized

The world's last remaining offshore pirate radio station, Arutz-7, has been legalized by the Israeli government, bringing to an end a 51 year history of such ship-based stations in the North Sea and Mediterranean. Here is how Arutz-7 themselves reported on the day's events, Wednesday February 24th 1999:

"Arutz-7 is now a licensed radio station! The Knesset voted 40-30 today to grant immediate recognition to any station that has been in continuous operation for the past five years. A radio station associated with the Shas party is also included in the bill. Attorney-General Elyakim Rubenstein exerted heavy pressure against the bill throughout the day, claiming that he will have 'difficulty defending it if and when the Supreme Court is asked to rule on it.'"

In fact, opposition MKs submitted an appeal to the Supreme Court against the legality of the new law less than two hours after the vote. Station executives say that they have received numerous legal opinions affirming that there is no legal basis for disqualifying the proposed bill. They claim that political, not legal, motivations are behind the objections of the State Attorney's office.

Yaakov Katz (Ketzaleh), Executive-Director of Arutz-7, said that the station is making preparations to implement the decision. "We are still checking all the details," he said, adding that he wished to thank Rabbis Ovadia Yosef, Mordechai Eliyahu, and Avraham Shapira, as well as a long list of Knesset Members and others whose support helped bring about the passage of the bill.

So, what happens now?

First of all, the boat isn't going anywhere - for the time being. Immediately after the vote yesterday, left wing Knesset members applied to the Israeli High Court of Justice appealing the Knesset decision. What does the vote mean? It means that ANY station that has been broadcasting NATIONALLY for the past five years automatically gets a license. Stations included in this "agreement" are: Arutz Sheva (Arutz-7), Arutz 2000 (the former offshore station - whose boat is still anchored off the coast of Tel-Aviv), Kol Hanesama (Voice of the Sole), Kol Haemet (Voice of the Truth), Radio 10. The last four stations being Ultra-orthodox LANDBASED stations.

We cannot think of any country giving landbased pirate stations a license (at least without contending in a tender with other stations), but this is what has happened in Israel. Arutz 2000 staff couldn't believe their luck. They were over the moon being included in the "Five year agreement" It means that instead of broadcasting from secret locations, they can now broadcast quite openly, and there is nothing anyone can do about it. As for control, and content of their broadcasts, this has to be worked out, but at the moment they are broadcasting as normal - legally now, but without any official body looking over them. In the agreement, three new national stations will be formed. Arutz Sheva, a left leaning station (Radio Gal?), and an ultra-orthodox station. (report from Mike Brand).

Voice of Peace returns to the airwaves?

The decision of the Israeli Knesset to allow the right-wing offshore station Arutz-7 to operate legally is already having repercussions for the broadcasting scene in the country and region. In a dramatic development, the legendary offshore station The Voice of Peace says it plans to return to the air off the coast of Israel. A press release from the VOP says that a new ship will leave harbour on Saturday 20th March 1999 and anchor in the same position as the original station. This news comes as Israel prepares to elect the 15th Knesset in May. The original Voice of Peace began regular transmissions in May 1973. Owned by former air force pilot turned peace campaigner Abe Nathan, it quickly became the most popular radio station amongst young people in the region. Hundreds of people worked for the station over the years, mostly on short term contracts. This included not only the hopefuls for whom the Voice of Peace was their big break in radio, but also established presenters who were either between jobs or who had decided to have a working holiday from their regular jobs on dry land. Unlike most offshore broadcasting ventures, the Voice of Peace was not intended purely to entertain. The concept of the station was to build bridges between young Israelis and Arabs. Nathan frequently broadcast personal Peace messages live over the station, with which he was in constant contact over a ship to shore link. In 1997, in recognition of his efforts, he received the Nuremberg International Human Rights Award. The station closed on October 1st 1993. Nathan was having financial problems, and the signing of the Peace Treaty between Israel and the PLO provided him with an opportune moment to bring the project to a close while being able to claim that the station had fulfilled its objectives. Two months later, the ship was sunk 15 miles off the Israeli coast. In early March 1999 The Voice of Peace issued the following press release:

"The New Voice of Peace announces that on Saturday 20th March our broadcasts will restart. In addition to normal radio broadcasts, you can also listen to The New Voice of Peace on the Internet at the following sites: < www.thevoiceofpeace.co.il >, < www.voiceofpeace.co.il >, < www.voiceofpeace.org > & < www.vop.co.il >.

It is our intention to sail on the "New Peace Ship" from Jaffa Harbor on Saturday 20th March at 17.00, and position ourselves off the Israeli coast. Our broadcasts will be received in all parts of Israel, and also in "New Palestine", and in the Middle Eastern countries. Since Israel is at the crossroads between Asia, Europe and Africa, the content of our broadcasts will be on the lines of Radio Free Europe and NPR - National Public Radio. We will broadcast in English, Hebrew and Arabic. Most of our broadcasts will be



presented by children, as they represent the next generations, and they will have to live with the decisions we make today. We believe that their voices need to be heard over every other voice. The decision of the Supreme Court last Wednesday which legalizes pirate radio stations has to include the Voice of Peace, that was the first station to start broadcasting. Therefore we are demanding special attention in the issuing of licenses to those concerned."

The stations Website at < www.vop.co.il > confirms that the mediumwave frequency will be the same as in the past - 1539kHz (announced as 1540kHz). The welcome message reads:

We are raising the sails of "The peace boat" - the consciousness of the world ... friends of peace. The new Voice of Peace sets sail on the Israeli airwaves once again. You are welcome to join us. We will tie up at the old Voice of Peace ship and anchor our new vessel. FM transmissions from the VOP will be on 108MHz, rather than the 100MHz central dial position used in the past. This is no doubt due to the scarcity of free space on the FM band. In addition to the many stations operating within Israel, The Kol M'Hashetach News Agency claims that the Palestinian Authority (PA) is operating 65 television channels and 19 radio stations within areas under its control, in violation of the Oslo agreements signed with Israel. The News Agency says that according to the agreements signed with Israel, the PA is only permitted to operate 8 radio stations and 6 television channels. The return of the VOP is not the only reaction to the decision to license Arutz-7. Israel Wire reported on 16th March that the left-wing pirate radio station Radio Gal had started regular broadcasting after an initial experimental stage. The station will carry two daily political programmes, and the rest of the time will be mostly Oriental and Mediterranean-style music. Radio Gal has been operating at 98.1MHz FM for over five years. The people behind the station say that if the government allows Arutz-7, it must also allow left-leaning stations. In the mean time it seems that VoP broadcasts will emanate from autonomous Palestinian territory. Reason: the vessel was not fully prepared yet. The ship, the MV Vagabond, is moored in a Greek harbour. The common opinion in Israel is that this is a publicity stunt to get a on-land license for the VoP.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

European Klassik Rock

Sun January 3rd marked the final broadcast day of pan European satellite radio station European Klassik Rock. Two other stations leasing airtime on EKR's audiosubcarriers, Radio Caroline and black music station Solar FM were forced to close down too. For a number of insiders it was not really a surprise that EKR had to close down: since the start of trms mid October 1997 EKR had carried only few commercials. Mid 1998 several well-known on air personalities had left the station because they couldn't be paid their wages anymore. A number of unexperienced but nevertheless enthusiasts presenters kept the station alive together with experienced people like John Lewis, Nigel Harris and Mark Stafford. The latter was the station's music director right from the beginning and presented a number of evening pxs since the very start. John Lewis and Nigel Harris both joined the station in the last months of broadcasting. Just to mention a few voices which were on the station during its heydays: Dave Cash, Emperor Rosko, Peter Quinn, Keith Lewis and Dave Windsor. EKR started as a very promising station putting out a wide variety of classic rock covering 4 decades of pop music. The station with studios in Maidstone, Kent wanted to provide a refreshing breath of creative music radio. The playlist featured far over 4000 songs and managing-director Peter Leutner said: "We are seeking to put the music back into radio" referring at all those great classic rock songs hardly to be heard on the radio. And thus EKR's slogan became "Putting the music back into your radio". The station built up a strong following of European listeners. But an enthusiast listening audience is not enough. Selling commercial airtime is a must to survive and that's the main reason the station was forced to cease broadcasting. The definitive decision to c/d was announced on Sun Jan. 3rd and it was in the afternoon of Sat Jan. 2nd that the station's people were informed. It was Mark Stafford who presented the final 4 hours on Sun Jan. 3rd 19.00-23.00 CET following Caroline's c/d. He presented a very informative final show and also talked to managing-director Peter Leutner. In the show there were several extracts from the EKR archives and the music was carefully selected. During the farewell show, several e-mails and telephone calls were received from all over Europe. Just before 23.00 the Beatles' "The long and winding road" and "The End" both from the Abbey Road album, were played. Then there was a short silence followed by Solar FM's final hour. EKR's Managing Director Peter Leutner issued a very comprehensive statement but it would go too far to read that out in full. However, if you want to obtain it, contact FRS-Holland via Email or snailmail. The costs: 1 IRC or a f1.00/DM 1.00 stamp.

The come-back of Roger 'Twiggy' Day

As already in earlier FRS Goes DX reports as well as in the FRS Newsletter, a new commercial radio station on long wave 279 kHz will start broadcasting from the Isle of Man. The new station will cover the whole of Great Britain. There are three interested candidates eagerly willing to obtain the licence: The Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company (IoMIBC) with MusicMann 279, CLT/UFA (RTL) with Indigo 279 & Radio 279, a group headed by Peter Baldwin, former senior man within the British Radio Authority. Insiders claim that it's just a formality before it will be announced that IoMIBC will be awarded the licence to start broadcasts. Paul Rusling who also played an important

role in the early days of Laser 558 is the IoMIBC key-figure. Provided IoMIBC is the lucky one, it will mean that former offshore jock Roger Day will be appointed programme-controller of the new MusicMann 279. He will not present any shows. In his career he worked for Swinging Radio England, Britain Radio, Radio Caroline, Radio Luxembourg, Radio Northsea International and a number of British local stations. MusicMann 279: < <http://www.longwaveradio.com> >.

BBC opts for Internet Radio in new millennium

The BBC has announced that their complete programming output will be accessible on the Internet in the year 2005. At the same moment it is announced that the German Service will be probably closed down. In the end the BBC aims to broadcast in 12 languages. Other future plans include FM reception in every major metropolis, according to Chief Executive Mark Byford. He added that there will be two different English language outputs, one is called World Service News (24 hour a day, up-to-date news) and World Service Plus. The latter will include the remaining pxs of the current World Service along with quality programming of a more general nature.

February 5th it was exactly 75 years ago that the BBC was the very first radio station in the world introducing a radio time signal. BBC Worldservice: < www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.htm >.

Chris Cary arrested in New Zealand

Chris Cary who did a bunk from 'Ford open Prison' in Sussex last August, was arrested in New Zealand. Cary is better known as 60s disc-jockey 'Spangles Muldoon' who had his first run-in with the authorities after joining Radio Caroline in 1967 and then being arrested for broadcasting on Radio Free London in 1968. Detectives tracked Cary, who was using the assumed name Chris Broady, to a house in Auckland. New Zealand police said he had been using a passport that was in the name of a dead British man. Cary was remanded in custody and faces a charge of traveling on a false passport. It was reported that Cary had not yet decided whether to fight extradition.

Listening to Internetradio doubled

The number of Americans listening to Internet radio has been doubled in the second half of 1998. The number increased from 6% to 13%. Edison Media Research interviewed 1350 persons. 41% of all Americans has access to the Internet, at home or at work.

New licences for low-powered stations?

The American FCC is currently seriously looking at the possibilities which could result in so-called microwave stations. Perhaps already this year stations will be allowed to start operations utilizing outputs between 1 and 1,000 watts. Goal is to make radio for the local residents in small areas. Other possibilities include issuing licenses to religious organisations, minorities, schools and universities.

AFN and BFBS will continue

Several stations still active and broadcasting from German soil for British and American soldiers will remain broadcasting for the time being. It concerns AFN and BFBS stations which started broadcasting as a result of the encampment of soldiers after World War II. Even when all troops will leave Germany, a number of stations will be kept on air to serve International troops who will return irregularly for exercises. However, one of the main BFBS frequencies, 96.5 MHz, will be soon off air, this frequency will become available for German stations. A tip for jingle-freaks: on the Internet there's an outstanding site full of BFBS jingles! < www.jingles.de/MEB/Jingles/Europa/UK/bfbs.html >.

The Album Zone on British cable?

The Album Zone, a daily show via Merlin Network One on SW and satellite, will be perhaps soon on British cable. Former Caroline deejay Johnny Reece who never worked on the high seas but who did pxs on satellite and RSLs, who set up the Album Zone with a few Caroline colleagues, is currently negotiating with possible backers and cable networks which will distribute the signal. During weekdays the show is aired between 10.00-11.00 on MNO. An extra hour is scheduled in the afternoon, however, this is broadcasted at different times. For more info, try this site: < www.mno.net >.

Tony Blackburn

Less than 18 months Tony Blackburn's Breakfast Show on Capital Radio London was dropped and Tony's radio career was limited to weekends. As a result of the poor listening figures, the Capital management decided to call him back. Since Mon March 1st Tony is presenting a daily 4-7pm Drive Time show on the Capital Group. That means the show is broadcasted not only on Capital Gold but also on several other stations in Birmingham, Kent, Sussex and Hampshire. Former Caroline 80s deejay David Andrews is also to be heard via the Capital Group on weekdays between 10am and 1pm.

Alan West RSL

Wednesday March 10th it is announced that former R.N.I. jock Alan West (ex Radio London, Radio 270, Radio City, Radio 390, RNI, Radio Caroline, Voice of Peace) has obtained a RSL to operate a radio station for South London starting at the beginning of the 1999 Christmas Season. Barclays are backing the project. More news in December....

Dutch Radio Day

Saturday March 20th the annual Dutch radio Day will be organised by SMC



and Freewave. Place to be is the Beiaard, Zijlstraat 56, Hoek Gedempte Oude Gracht in Haarlem. Videos will be showed including one about the Scandinavian offshore stations and a potted history of AFN. Also an unique 60 min. video, filmed aboard the Veronica ship Norderney in the 60s and 70s. Some of the former Veronica crewmembers will be interviewed that day. Hans van Velzen, the man who closed down the station in 1974 (de man die huilend als technicus van het laatste uur het programma schoof), José van Groningen, the engineer, Ruud Doets & Juul Geleick will be special guests in March. For the first time since 1974, all equipment which was aboard the Veronica ship Norderney, will be on exhibition. All is in working order.

Internet jock (USA)

Internetjock.com is a new company that delivers Custom Voice Tracks (using MP3 technology) to automated radio stations worldwide. Owner Bob Ancheta, veteran radio announcer for 29 years in Portland, got the idea to take advantage of all the cutbacks and consolidation in radio, and provide custom radio tracks with major market voices for a fraction of what you would pay a full time announcer. Stations pay a flat fee for a weekday show and they don't have to pay employee benefits or line charges to receive the tracks. Radio stations email or fax the music sheets daily to Internetjock. Voice tracks are recorded and encoded to MP3 and Internetjock FTPs them to its web site for stations to download into their automation. It downloads in almost real time, and they arrive CD quality. Now small and medium markets can have professional announcers on their station, and it sounds like Internetjock is sitting in the studio doing it live. Internetjock does the local weather, contests and music news. Internetjock is currently heard on KTWS, The Twins 98.3 in Bend,

program director, Ron Alvarez at 541/382-5263 or email him at <Alvarez@bendnet.com>. After nine months of testing, Internetjock is ready to take on new clients. Internetjock has many voices available for any format. Internetjock can do production, liners, and even has a TV weatherman Matt Zaffino from NW News Channel 8, that can do custom weather reports. Internetjock even offers this service free for one week to see if you like it.
< www.internetjock.com > E-mail: < info@internetjock.com >.
< www.thetwins.com/ >.

NBN introduces MP3

NBG, Nostalgia Broadcasting Network, specializing in delivering oldie-programmes (in several formats), announced a few weeks ago that all stations putting out NBNs syndicated shows, have now the option of choosing to receive shows via messenger service (as it always was) or downloading them in the MP3 format via the Internet. MP3, also called MPEG3, has quickly gained an enormous popularity among Internet users and those who are professionally involved in audio. Up till now WAV files were widely spread and used for computer audio purposes but knowing the WAV-MP3 ratio could be as much as 1:12 with a minimum loss of quality, it must be clear MP3 is rapidly gaining interest. Downloading syndicated pxs is very cost-effective as there are no costs of postage. Besides: damages during transport are excluded and it is much quicker. NBG produces 31 national pxs being aired on no less than 1775 USA-based radio stations. Nostalgia Broadcasting Network: < www.nbgradio.com/ >.

Introduction DBS receivers: delay

It will take a bit longer before we can listen to satellite radio in our car. A few years ago it was predicted that the year 2000 would see the introduction. June 2000 three satellites will become operational, later that month the first tests will commence. World Space, one of the companies involved, recently announced an agreement was reached with a number of manufacturers. Future so-called DBS receivers will be obtainable for relatively low prices. It can be expected that initial prices will be around 500 Dutch guilders, that's the equivalent of 250 US dollars, 440 German Marks or 160 English pounds. As soon as the sale will increase, prices will automatically drop.

MADE in HOLLAND

December

The MV Norderney, former Veronica radio ship, has been lying alongside a quay in Leeuwarden, in the Northern province of Friesland for some two years. There it has been serving as a disco, until financial difficulties forced the backers to stop these activities. Now there are new plans for the ship. It will be towed towards various Dutch locations to be the scene of special events. August 1999 it will be 25 years ago Radio Veronica was forced by Dutch government to cease broadcasts from the Norderney. In 1998 some 400,000,000 Guilders have been spent on radio commercials. Ten years ago this has been 80,000,000,-. Especially the commercial stations have been increasing their income from advertisements. Radio advertising is quite an attractive medium, regarded the fact the 'average Dutchman' is listening 3 hours a day to radio.

The Rotterdam based commercial station SUN FM has got a terrestrial frequency earlier this year. Especially the station's multi-cultural format has been one of the major arguments to give SUN entrance to the airwaves. Now the shareholders of the station have decided to change the format towards non-stop popmusic. As a result of this policy 34 people have lost their jobs. Several people have suggested SUN has to give back its terrestrial frequency, because of misleading the public.

A major change in format at Radio Noordzee Nationaal has been announced. The station will air more current popmusic and less talk. This change is the result of a survey among (potential) listeners. The boost in commercial stations broadcasting on FM has urged the station to re-consider its policy. Radio Noordzee will ban the more 'rural' folk music to its (cable) sister station Radio Hollands Glorie. From the beginning of 1999 onwards Noordzee will be aiming at the audience between 20 -40 years of age. A very attractive audience for advertisers.

January

January 1998 **Country FM** started transmissions on the Rotterdam and The Hague cable systems. Now, one year later, the station can be received in 2 million households throughout the country. The stations is playing a mixture of 'old' and 'new', with an emphasis on the latter category, with artists like Ilse DeLange, the Mavericks and LeAnnRimes. Country music and associated things like line dancing are rapidly becoming more and more popular in Holland.

January 15th **City-FM** officially commenced broadcasting via terrestrial frequencies in Amsterdam and Haarlem. After some weeks of non-stop transmissions now presented programmes are aired. The stations plays "the best of the 80's and 90's".

Radio 538 will be broadcasting via cable in Belgium from February onwards. At first the Dutch programmes will be relayed, but later on a Flemish edition will be aired. The station will be playing Top40, 'dance' and recent hits. Radio 538 is aiming at the very young 13 - 19 target group. In this group the station has reached a 32,2% market share in Holland. That means it can call itself 'marketleader'.

Do you remember **Delta Radio**? This long wave station had plans to erect giant masts somewhere in the middle of the country. After a lot of protests from local inhabitants the council of Apeldoorn didn't give the concession to build these masts. As a result Delta Radio developed plans to build masts in the Northsea. Dutch Government was assisting the station in investigating the legal possibilities. But now it appears the Apeldoorn council has to do its homework all over. A higher court (the 'Raad van State') judged the council hasn't been careful enough. However, experts don't expect the new decision will be a different one. Delta Radio - if it ever will reach the broadcasting status - will be broadcasting pop music towards the British Isles. A kind of Atlantic 252.

Yes, it's yet another radio station! This time it has a quite unfamiliar name: **Oibibio Radio**. Broadcasting non stop music 24 hours a day. But this time quite different from other stations. Oibibio Radio is playing mostly new age and world music. The station started February 1st 1998. In the meantime 2,3 million households are connected to the station via their local systems. Despite one year of broadcasting the station doesn't air commercials yet. The station is part of the Oibibio holding, which offers recreation, relaxation and awaking via a lot of activities like courses. The whole enterprise has giant financial troubles. For a lot of people the big question isn't whether the station will get broke but: when?

MARCH

According to State Secretary De Vries of Transport & Public Works, the Dutch government cannot prevent the building of two giant antennamasts in the Northsea some 35 kilometres off the Zeeland coast. He said hopes have been aroused. New conditions could result in insurance claims. Antennas will be built outside the 12 mile limiting the government's voice in this matter. New laws must give the government more power when it comes to decisions for outside the 12 mile limit.

More information about Dutch radio: < www.home.wxs.nl/~latiers >.

Sources : Hans Knot/ FRW, TTS Mediapro, SRS-News, MediaVisie, Newstide, Radio Netherlands World Service, FRSH, Mike Brand.

FRS SALES PRODUCTIONS: a wide range of recordings from radiostations around the world. Offshore, landbased pirate radio stations, satellite, documentaries, jingles and much, more more. For more info write to FRS Sales Prod., P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten in the Netherlands.